

CAPT. JOHN W. DODD.

JANUARY 30, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HARDY, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 3491.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3491) granting an increase of pension to Capt. John W. Dodd, have considered the same and respectfully report as follows:

Said bill is accompanied by Senate Report No. 1231, this session, and the same fully stating the facts is adopted by your committee as their report, and the bill is returned with a favorable recommendation.

[Senate Report No. 1231, Fifty-fourth Congress, second session.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3941) granting an increase of pension to Capt. John W. Dodd, having examined the same, together with the accompanying papers and evidence, beg leave to submit the following report:

The claimant, John W. Dodd, is a resident of Indianapolis, Ind. Has resided in that city for the last forty years. He is now 77 years old. He is without property or means of any kind and has no income or source of income except the sum of \$12 per month, which he is now drawing under the general Mexican pension law. He has applied to the Commissioner of Pensions for an increase of his said pension and his application was rejected, as appears from the letter addressed to him by the Commissioner on December 23, 1896. He was a captain of Company A, Fourth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, during the Mexican war, having enlisted in 1846, and having served until the close of the war, in 1848, when he was honorably discharged. He is married, has a wife dependent upon him, and also a paralytic son who is totally helpless, together with a family of grandchildren, who are also without means and dependent upon him for support.

The evidence shows that he is now afflicted, and has been for the past three years a sufferer from epileptic fits. He was compelled to give up his former employment, being totally incapacitated from any sort of labor, and requiring at regular intervals the care of a third person. Neither he nor his wife have any means of support except as above stated.

Two physicians of the city of Indianapolis, Dr. O. S. Runnels and Dr. John M. Kitchen, who have treated him and been acquainted with him for many years, make the following statement in regard to his mental and physical condition:

"Captain Dodd has been a sufferer from hemorrhoids and persistent constipation, more or less pronounced, ever since his discharge from the Army at the close of the Mexican war, and the trouble in recent years has become very troublesome. He has also been a great sufferer from nasal catarrh. During the last three years he has had epilepsy, the attacks occurring regularly every three weeks, rendering him unconscious and wholly helpless for days thereafter, necessitating the care of a third person the greater portion of the time, and compelling him to give up all kinds of employment. Captain Dodd is now in his seventy-seventh year and his wife is in her seventy-fifth year, and in view of his advanced age and debilitated physical

condition it is wholly improbable that he will ever be able to earn a living for himself and family."

This is the sworn testimony of physicians who are of the highest standing in their profession, and the facts to which they testify are certified to by a large number of petitioners well known in Indiana, among whom are Gen. Lew Wallace, Gen. George F. McGinnis, Governor Matthews, and Thomas Taggart, mayor of the city of Indianapolis. The Hon. Daniel W. Voorhees, Senator from Indiana, also certifies to his long personal acquaintance with the claimant and his personal knowledge of his dependent and helpless condition.

Your committee know that there are various precedents in the past action of the committee and the Senate for the relief prayed for in the bill. We think, from the facts before us, that this measure is one of real merit and that the relief sought is just and necessary. We therefore recommend the passage of the bill.

